

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
determining whether a wireless communication station is authorized to configure a wireless access point not associated therewith based on a comparison of a first string transmitted by said wireless access point and indicating a unique identifier of said wireless access point to a second string entered at the wireless communication station.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising transmitting a wireless probe request signal indicating that said wireless communication station supports a certain configuration protocol.
3. The method of claim 2, comprising receiving a wireless probe response signal including an indication that said wireless access point supports said certain configuration protocol, wherein said wireless probe response signal includes said first string.
4. The method of claim 3, comprising performing an ownership-setting process between said wireless communication station and said wireless access point if said first string matches said second string.
5. The method of claim 4, comprising establishing an encryption key for secure communications between said wireless access point and said wireless communication station.
6. The method of claim 5, comprising transmitting a value of a configuration parameter encrypted using said encryption key.
7. The method of claim 6, comprising decrypting by said wireless access point said encrypted transmission.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising setting a value of a parameter of said wireless access point based on the decrypted transmission.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein setting a value of a parameter comprises setting a value of at least one of a Service Set Identifier (SSID) and a Wi-Fi Protected Access – Pre-Shared Key (WPA-PSK).
10. An apparatus comprising:  
a processor to determine whether a wireless communication station is authorized to configure a wireless access point not associated therewith based on a comparison of a first string transmitted by said wireless access point and indicating a unique identifier of said wireless access point to a second string entered at the wireless communication station.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, comprising a transmitter to transmit a wireless probe request signal indicating that said wireless communication station supports a certain configuration protocol.
12. The apparatus of claim 11, comprising a receiver to receive a wireless probe response signal including an indication that said wireless access point supports said certain configuration protocol, wherein said wireless probe response signal includes said first string.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said processor is able to perform an ownership-setting process between said wireless communication station and said wireless access point if said first string matches said second string.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said processor is able to establish an encryption key for secure communications between said wireless access point and said wireless communication station.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said transmitter is able to transmit a value of a configuration parameter encrypted using said encryption key.
16. A wireless communication station comprising:  
a dipole antenna; and  
a processor to determine whether a wireless communication station is authorized to configure a wireless access point not associated therewith based on a comparison of a first string transmitted by said wireless access point and indicating a unique identifier of said wireless access point to a second string entered at the wireless communication station.
17. The wireless communication station of claim 16, wherein said wireless communication station is able to transmit a wireless probe request signal indicating that said wireless communication station supports a certain configuration protocol.
18. The wireless communication station of claim 17, wherein said wireless communication station is able to receive a wireless probe response signal including an indication that said wireless access point supports said certain configuration protocol, wherein said wireless probe response signal includes said first string.
19. A wireless communication system comprising:  
a wireless access point; and  
a wireless communication station able to determine whether said wireless communication station is authorized to configure said wireless access point not associated therewith based on a comparison of a first string transmitted by said wireless access point and indicating a unique identifier of said wireless access point to a second string entered at the wireless communication station.
20. The wireless communication system of claim 19, wherein said wireless communication station is able to transmit a wireless probe request signal indicating that said wireless communication station supports a certain configuration protocol.

21. The wireless communication system of claim 20, wherein said wireless communication station is able to receive a wireless probe response signal including an indication that said wireless access point supports said certain configuration protocol, wherein said wireless probe response signal includes said first string.
22. The wireless communication system of claim 21, wherein said wireless communication station is able to perform an ownership-setting process between said wireless communication station and said wireless access point if said first string matches said second string.
23. The wireless communication system of claim 22, wherein said wireless communication station is able to establish an encryption key for secure communications between said wireless access point and said wireless communication station.
24. The wireless communication system of claim 23, wherein said wireless communication station is able to transmit a value of a configuration parameter encrypted using said encryption key.
25. The wireless communication system of claim 24, wherein said wireless access point is able to decrypt said encrypted transmission.
26. The wireless communication system of claim 25, wherein said wireless access point is able to set a value of a parameter of said wireless access point based on the decrypted transmission.
27. The wireless communication system of claim 26, wherein said value comprises a value of at least one of a Service Set Identifier (SSID) and a Wi-Fi Protected Access – Pre-Shared Key (WPA-PSK).
28. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions that, if executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform a method comprising:

determining whether a wireless communication station is authorized to configure a wireless access point not associated therewith based on a comparison of a first string transmitted by said wireless access point and indicating a unique identifier of said wireless access point to a second string entered at the wireless communication station.

29. The machine-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions result in transmitting a wireless probe request signal indicating that said wireless communication station supports a certain configuration protocol.
30. The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the instructions result in receiving a wireless probe response signal including an indication that said wireless access point supports said certain configuration protocol, wherein said wireless probe response signal includes said first string.